

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A plastic closure for a container, comprising:

a top wall;

a downwardly depending substantially cylindrical skirt that is unitary with said top wall, said skirt defining inner and outer surfaces and further defining a lower rim at a distal, bottom end thereof;

at least one thread that is defined on said inner surface of said skirt; and

reinforcing means defined on said skirt in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface that is at least 0.05 inches in maximum thickness for enhancing the dimensional integrity of the closure during opening.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A plastic closure according to claim 12, wherein said reinforcing means comprises an area of increased skirt thickness in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface that is at least 0.06 inches in maximum thickness.

4. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 3, wherein said reinforcing means comprises an area of increased skirt thickness in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface that is at least 0.07 inches in maximum thickness.

5. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing means comprises an area of increased skirt thickness in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface, and said substantially cylindrical skirt has an outer diameter, and wherein a ratio of said thickness to said outer diameter is at least about 0.04.

6. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 5, wherein said ratio is at least 0.05.
7. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 1, further comprising a tamper-evident band frangibly connected to said lower rim.
8. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing means comprises an area of increased skirt thickness in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface, and wherein a product of said thickness and a vertical distance between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface is at least 0.0040.
9. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 8, wherein said product is at least 0.0045.
10. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 9, wherein said product is at least 0.0048.
11. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing means comprises an area of increased skirt thickness in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface, and wherein said area of increased skirt thickness is shaped to define a substantially smooth inner surface.
12. (Original) A plastic closure according to claim 11, wherein said inner surface of said area of increased skirt thickness is substantially cylindrical in shape.
13. (New) A plastic closure according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing means comprises an area of increased skirt thickness in an area between said lower rim and a lowermost thread on said inner surface, said area of increased thickness having a relatively smooth inner surface extending unbroken about an inner periphery of said skirt.
14. (New) A plastic closure according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing means extends unbroken about an inner periphery of said skirt.